I CLAIM:

1. A hook and loop fastener comprising a hook component and a loop component;

the hook component including a hook backing and a plurality of hooks protruding from it;

the loop component including a thermally retracted material with a plurality of looped fibers on a first side of the material and a thermally retracted fibrous surface on a second side of the material.

- 2. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of thermally retracted fibers on the second side of the material are continuous with a plurality of the looped fibers on the first side of the material.
- 3. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 1, wherein the retracted material comprises a thermally retracted nonwoven web.
- 4. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 3, wherein the thermally retracted nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of a bonded carded web, a spunbonded web, and a meltblown web.

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- 5. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 4, wherein the thermally retracted nonwoven web comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, and thermoplastic elastomeric polymers.
- 6. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 5, wherein the polymer comprises a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of one or more of polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutene, ethylene copolymers, propylene copolymers, and butene copolymers.
- 7. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 1, wherein the loop component comprises an S-weave bond pattern.
- 8. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 7, wherein the loop component has a bond area of about 10 to 25% effected by the S-weave bond pattern.
- 9. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 1, wherein the loop component is retracted in a cross direction.
- 10. An absorbent article comprising the hook and loop fastener of Claim 1.

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- 11. A diaper comprising the hook and loop fastener of Claim 1.
- 12. A training pant comprising the hook and loop fastener of Claim 1.
- 13. A feminine hygiene product comprising the hook and loop fastener of Claim 1.
- 14. An incontinence product comprising the hook and loop fastener of Claim 1.
- 15. A medical garment comprising the hook and loop fastener of Claim 1.
- 16. A hook and loop fastener comprising a hook component and a loop component;

the hook component including a hook backing and a plurality of hooks protruding from it;

the loop component including a layer of a first thermally retracted material with a plurality of looped fibers on a first side of the first material, and a layer of a second thermally retracted material with a plurality of thermally stabilized

fibers on a second side of the second material, wherein the first thermally retracted material and the second thermally retracted material are bonded to one another.

- 17. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 16, wherein the first retracted material and the second retracted material comprise different deniers from one another.
- 18. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 16, wherein the first retracted material and the second retracted material comprise different basis weights from one another.
- 19. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 16, wherein the first retracted material and the second retracted material comprise different resins from one another.
- 20. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 16, wherein the first retracted material and the second retracted material each comprise a thermally retracted nonwoven web.
- 21. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 20, wherein the thermally retracted nonwoven web of both the first retracted material and the second retracted

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material is selected from the group consisting of a bonded carded web, a spunbonded web, and a meltblown web, .

- 22. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 21, wherein each of the thermally retracted nonwoven webs comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, and elastomeric thermoplastic polymers.
- 23. The hook and loop fastener of Claim 22, wherein the polymer of each material comprises a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of one or more of polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutene, ethylene copolymers, propylene copolymers, and butene copolymers.
- 24. A method of making a loop component of a hook and loop fastener, comprising the steps of:

applying heat to a second side of a fibrous, retractable web;

thermally retracting the second side of the fibrous, retractable web;

thermally stabilizing individual fibers of the fibrous, retractable web on

the second side of the fibrous, retractable web; and

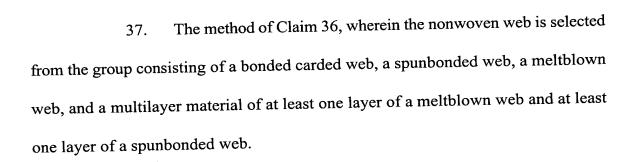
allowing a first side of the retractable web to gather into loops.

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- 25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the temperature of the heat is within ± 5 °C of a melting point of the fibrous, retractable web.
- 26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the heat is applied using a hot air knife.
- 27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the fibrous, retractable web passes beneath the hot air knife at a line speed in a range of about 100 to about 3,000 feet per minute.
- 28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the fibrous, retractable web passes beneath the hot air knife at a line speed in a range of about 500 to about 2,500 feet per minute.
- 29. The method of Claim 26, wherein the fibrous, retractable web passes beneath the hot air knife at a line speed in a range of about 1,000 to about 2,000 feet per minute.
- 30. The method of Claim 26, wherein air velocity from the hot air knife is in a range of about 1,000 to about 25,000 feet per minute.

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- 31. The method of Claim 26, wherein air velocity from the hot air knife is in a range of about 5,000 to about 20,000 feet per minute.
- 32. The method of Claim 26, wherein air velocity from the hot air knife is in a range of about 8,000 to about 15,000 feet per minute.
- 33. The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of holding the fibrous, retractable web on a forming wire with a vacuum while applying heat to the second side of the fibrous, retractable web.
- 34. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the steps of controlling the vacuum and allowing the fibrous, retractable web to move in a direction of retraction.
- 35. The method of Claim 24, wherein the second side of the fibrous, retractable material retracts in a cross direction.
- 36. The method of Claim 24, wherein the fibrous, retractable material is a nonwoven web.



- 38. The method of Claim 37, wherein the nonwoven web comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, and polyamides.
- 39. The method of Claim 38, wherein the polymer comprises a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of one or more of polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutene, ethylene copolymers, propylene copolymers, and butene copolymers.